

Application No.: 09/857,904

Docket No.: 19036/37471

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) A lid member for a food container having a layered structure in which a surface sheet is laid on a composite sheet, the lid member comprises:

an easily-peelable area comprising an easily-peelable layer made by applying a lubricant between the surface sheet and the composite sheet, an opening area placed within the easily-peelable area [[and]]to form apertures therein, and a non-peelable area placed adjacent to the easily-peelable area, and

a first slit which cuts the composite sheet vertical-sectionally and forms the apertures in the opening area, and a second slit which cuts the surface sheet vertical-sectionally and is laid along the boundary line between the easily-peelable area and the non-peelable area, and

the lid member is further characterized in that the surface sheet is adhered to the composite sheet at the opening area without the lubricant through an area which is smaller than [{the}]a cut area having apertures formed therein within the composite sheet with the first slit, and

said easily-peelable layer is formed by applying the lubricant in the form of a pattern.

7. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said easily-peelable layer is formed by applying the lubricant in the form of a dot-pattern.

8. (Original) The lid member according to claim 7, wherein the dot diameter of said lubricant applied in the form of a dot-pattern is from about 0.5mm to about 1.5mm.

9. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said easily-peelable layer is formed by applying the lubricant in the form of a mesh-pattern.

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10. (Original) The lid member according to claim 9, wherein the mesh size of said lubricant applied in the form of a mesh-pattern is from about 0.3mm to about 0.5mm.

11. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein the area of applied lubricant occupies from about 60% to about 90% of the easily-peelable layer.

12. (Original) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said lid member further comprises an easily-peelable layer formed by applying lubricant in solid form along said second slit.

13. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said lid member further comprises a tab to open said apertures, said tab formed at a circumferential edge of said easily-peelable layer.

14. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 13, wherein the easily-peelable layer, in the circumferential edge of said easily-peelable area at an adjacent portion to said tab is formed by applying lubricant in solid form, and; the easily-peelable layer in the circumferential edge of said easily-peelable area, except at said adjacent portion to said tab is formed by applying lubricant in the form of a pattern.

15. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said lubricant comprises wax in an amount of from about 5 wt% to about 95 wt% of said lubricant.

16. (Original) The lid member according to claim 15, wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene wax, polyester wax, aliphatic amide wax, and a combination thereof.

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17. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said lid member further comprises filling varnish disposed between said easily-peelable layer and said surface sheet.

18. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said lid member further comprises a notch, cut from the surface sheet to the composite sheet, on said second slit or adjacent thereto, within a circumferential edge of the lid member.

19. (Previously presented) The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said second slit is a slit zone wherein a pair of discontinuous slits, inclined mutually outwardly, provide at least one row of slits.